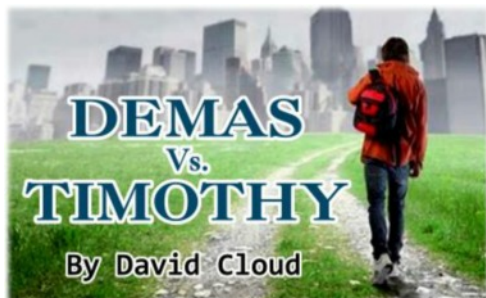


O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 39 - Issue 5 - May 2022



"Demas loved this present world. That world is described in 1 John 2:16 as 'the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.' We know that this didn't happen overnight. Demas had loved the world secretly in his heart for some time. He had pretended to love Christ and to serve Christ, but his real love was for the world." Page 12.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**



DAVID CLOUD HAS COFFEE WITH JOHN WILKERSON ~ By David Cloud

On April 12, I had coffee with John Wilkerson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana. The meeting was arranged by Pastor Courtney Lewis of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Chicago, where I was preaching a Bible conference on *Mastering the English Bible* consisting of 50 sessions in 12 days.

Wilkerson became pastor of First Baptist in 2013, following Jack Schaap (pastorate 2001-2012) and Jack Hyles (pastorate 1959-2001). Schaap, Hyles' son-in-law, is still in prison for an immoral relationship with a teenage church member. Schaap's wife, Cindy, subsequently divorced him and remarried.

Pastor Wilkerson and his wife, Linda, are graduates of Hyles-Anderson College (he in 1989, she in 1990). He previously pastored First Baptist Church of Long Beach, California. One of their nine children died in an automobile accident, and they have glorified the Lord through this tragedy.



Pastor Wilkerson seems to be a gracious, humble, and approachable man, and we conversed as Christian gentlemen. We thanked Pastor Wilkerson for the good testimony in his personal life and home, which is in great

contrast to that of his predecessors. It appears to me that he is a sincere Christian man who is steeped in Hyles-Sword tradition and methodology, a man who has never looked beyond the tradition he has been taught, a man who hasn't given serious consideration to the Bible-based critiques of Hyles-First Baptist, a man, in fact, who has been brainwashed with the idea that it is wrong to test and warn and who, therefore, has a knee-jerk reaction against such things.

Pastor Lewis and I shared with Wilkerson some of our personal experiences with the Hyles' style "quick prayerism" that has spread throughout the world from First Baptist. (Afterward, Pastor Lewis wrote to me as follows: "I want your readers to know that I wasn't just 'along for the ride' with the meeting with Pastor Wilkerson. I wholeheartedly reject easy prayerism and believe that the things I have seen in the past need to be exposed now more than ever.")

I told Pastor Wilkerson about my experience in the bus ministry at Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a Tennessee Temple student in 1974, how that the children were dealt with quickly and carelessly and were led in a sinner's prayer without proper understanding and with no hint of repentance and rarely producing evidence of regeneration. At Tennessee Temple I was trained in the Hyles' soul-winning techniques that were designed to produce a high number of "professions of faith." (Hyles preached at my

graduation in 1977.) Preaching repentance was not part of the technique. In fact, there was no hint that there would be any sort of God-wrought change of life. The methodology focused, rather, on manipulating people to acknowledge that they were sinners (in a casual, shallow manner), to state that they would like to go to heaven when they die, and to pray a sinner's prayer. Those who prayed the prayer were immediately told they were saved, given assurance of salvation, and reported as saved, *though the vast majority demonstrated no biblical evidence of salvation.*

I told him about my experience following up a Hyles' Phoster Club program in a church in Lakeland, Florida, in 1977. The pastor told me, "Brother Cloud, our women have seen a lot of people saved, but we aren't following them up." My wife and I were given a stack of cards, but we did not find even one of these "saved people" to be interested in talking with us about spiritual matters.

I told Mr. Wilkerson about how that in Oklahoma City in 2000 we followed up a county fair gospel ministry modeled after the Hyles' soul winning plan. Of the hundreds of names that were signed up and reported as "saved," not one individual was interested in even talking about Christ.

I told Mr. Wilkerson about a pastor friend, Ken Shaver, who followed up on the more than 100 "salvation decisions" that were made at a county fair ministry in Kentucky in 2011, and he *did not find one soul who was even interested* enough in Christ to attend church.

Pastor Courtney Lewis told Mr. Wilkerson of his experience on Hylescost, May 3, 1998. Jack Hyles boasted that more people were saved at First Baptist that day than were saved at Pentecost. He claimed 15,000 salvations and 5,112 baptisms. At the time, Lewis was a student at Fairhaven Baptist College in Chesterton, Indiana, about 25 miles east of Hammond. He was involved with Fairhaven's bus ministry and spent Saturdays and Sundays working with street kids in Chicago. He found out that First Baptist bus workers had contacted some of the kids he was working with and that they were going to participate in the big day, so he got permission to observe some of the proceedings. He told Pastor Wilkerson the following testimony:

"First Baptist rented out satellite buildings in the area, and one of those was in Chicago, close to

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David W. Cloud, Editor
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PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)
fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N.
London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
519-652-2619

where we were ministering. They had rented out a Seventh-day Adventist church and were holding this rally for the kids. ... So we went to that meeting. We sat in the back, and a bus pulled up and unloaded about 50 or 60 kids. We saw the kids that we were ministering to on normal Sundays get off the bus. They brought all of the kids into a classroom. They sat the kids down, and a worker came up and led the kids in one verse of 'Amazing Grace.' He sat down and another man came up and gave a five- or seven-minute presentation of the gospel to these children--street kids, who had [for the most part] never heard the gospel. I was a street kid; I know what is going on in Chicago. There was no mention of repentance. It was just a basic Romans Road survey. Very weak. He said, 'Bow your heads and close your eyes. Every one who wants to be sure that you are going to heaven, raise your hand.' Several kids raised their hands, including one or two of the kids that we knew. As they raised their hands, there were workers that sat down with them there in that room. They pulled up a chair next to a kid and opened up the Bible. The worker that I was watching in particular was saying to the kid, 'If you want to know for sure that you are going to heaven, here are the things that you have to know.' While talking, the worker was continually looking around the room, totally disinterested in the kid, but telling him, 'Number 1, you are a sinner; number 2, Jesus died on the cross for your sins; number 3 you have to accept Him as your Saviour. Would you like to do that?' The kid said yes, so the worker said, 'Let's bow our heads and pray this prayer.' Several of the kids in that room did that. When that was done, they took the kids that prayed that prayer out of the classroom and they had set the auditorium up so that there was a baptismal tank with a curtain on one side for the girls and a curtain on the other side for the guys. There was a worker standing right by the baptismal tank with a clipboard. The kids changed behind the curtain and were brought one by one into the baptistry. As they did, the worker with the clipboard put a check mark for each baptism. He was nonchalantly making check marks: check, check, check, check, check. The kids were then taken out of that room and lined up at the door where they had entered, given a hotdog, put on the bus, the bus pulled away, and

another bus pulled up, and the whole circuit started all over again. I saw it with my own eyes. ... I say, that is wicked! ... At least one of the kids that we had been working with was baptized that day. The next Sunday he was back at our church, and we said to him, 'You were there last week and you got baptized. Why did you get baptized?' He just shrugged his shoulders and said, 'I don't know.' That was my experience."

This was First Baptist's Quick Prayerism assembly line, and it was the pattern of soul winning that spread worldwide.

Then there is the immorality associated with the church and school.

This, too, is a worldwide phenomenon. Immorality has been absolutely rife among members of First Baptist Church and graduates of Hyles-Anderson. Rife! I have preached in hundreds of churches in every state of the Union except Hawaii, and in many other countries, and everywhere I have traveled I have learned about fallen preachers who were associated closely with First Baptist and Hyles-Anderson College. I knew some of these men personally and in many other cases I knew men personally who had firsthand knowledge of the dirty business. The Bible says that the truth is established at the mouth of two or three witnesses. Reports documenting the immorality at First Baptist of Hammond include the following, each of which offers substantial corroborative documentation.

Fundamental Seduction: The Jack Hyles Case by Voyle Glover, a lawyer and former member of First Baptist and long-time associate of Hyles (485 pages)

An Open Letter to Jack Hyles by George Godfrey, a professor at Hyles-Anderson for 16 years

The Wizard of God: My Life with Jack Hyles by Victor Nischik, former deacon of First Baptist

The Saddest Story We Ever Published by Evangelist Robert Sumner (1989) who received first-hand testimonies from a large number of people

Preying from the Pulpit--The Immoral Influences of Jack Hyles, a documentary exposé by a Detroit television station (available from Bible for Today, Collingswood, NJ, VHS or audio tape # 2354)

Sin in the Camp of Fundamentalists, a report by 25 independent Baptist pastors who met at Indianapolis Baptist Temple in January 27, 1992, to examine Hyles' teaching and actions

Why I Am Not 100% for Hyles by Roger Voegtlin, an hour and a half sermon preached at Fairhaven Baptist Church, Chesterton, Indiana, June 25, 1989.

A report in the *Chicago Magazine* for January 2013, was entitled "Let Us Prey: Big Trouble at First Baptist Church." It documented ten cases of sexual escapades committed by pastors associated with the church. These are Ted Butler, Christopher Settlemyer, Dave Hyles, Charles Shiflett, Joseph Combs, Chester Mulligan, William Beith, Craig Sission, Kerry Martin, and Jack Schaap, who was the pastor of the church until he was caught having an immoral relationship with a teenage girl.

The report said, "A string of assaults and sexual crimes committed by pastors across the country have one thing in common: The perpetrators have ties to the megachurch in Hammond, Indiana."

What a public reproach to the cause of Jesus Christ!

Chicago Magazine documented how that the church's late pastor, Jack Hyles, created a cultic climate in which church members were not allowed to test anything by God's Word and immoralities were routinely covered up.

For example, during a Sunday sermon, Hyles held up a cup bearing the image of the skull and bones, which is a warning that the contents are poisonous. He said to Johnny Colsten, one of the men sitting behind him on the platform, "I'd like for you, if you don't mind, to drink this," and Colsten did not hesitate to drink the potential cool-aid ("Let Us Prey: Big Trouble at First Baptist," *Chicago Magazine*, January 2013). Hyles said on more than one occasion that if he told his deacons to jump off a bridge, they would do it.

The Lord knows *Chicago Magazine's* motives and they will give account for their business, but its case against First Baptist of Hammond is solid. With no great difficulty, they could have documented 100 more examples. What they got wrong is the implication that all independent Baptists are cultic.

NO PUBLIC REPENTANCE

While discussing these things, Pastor Wilkerson said he was "grieved" by the type of soul winning we related to him.

A question that comes immediately to mind is this, and I asked it of Wilkerson: "If you disagree with what was practiced at First Baptist in the past, what have you stated publicly to renounce the past and to set First Baptist today apart from its former history?"

Pastor Wilkerson replied that there has been no public statement.

Pastor Wilkerson asked me what I would suggest that he do. I emphasized to him that First Baptist, Hammond, has been ground zero for the promotion of some really wrong, truly evil, things. First Baptist Church has sinned against the whole world. Multitudes have been given false assurance by the Hyles methodology. This was taught and promoted through Hyles' books, conferences, tapes, the college, and the annual Pastors School. Hyles was the king of Quick Prayerism. As far as I have been able to discover, Hyles invented the "do you want to go to heaven when you die, then pray this prayer after me" methodology, and the *Sword of the Lord* gave him a large forum to promote it, starting in the 1960s ("Let's Go Soul Winning," 1962).

First Baptist was ground zero for the promotion of this horrible practice. Multitudes of people around the world have been abused with an unscriptural method of soul winning. They have been left with the false idea that they are "saved" and "going to heaven" just because they responded to a cheap salesmanship program. Much of the fault lies at the feet of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana.

Public sin requires public repentance. The church needs to publicly repent for what was formerly taught, practiced, and countenanced.

Pastor Wilkinson was non-committal.

NO CHANGE

I ended our conversation by telling Pastor Wilkerson that I have learned not to listen to a preacher's words unless I can see it backed up by his life and ministry.

Though Pastor Wilkerson said he agrees with us to some extent in the matters we broached, I have seen nothing to indicate that he believes in biblical repentance or that he has rejected the damnable practice of Quick Prayerism.

As of April 16, 2022, the First Baptist Church's web site contains no mention of repentance. There is not even a hint of the idea that a sinner must repent or that there will be a change of life. This is true for "The Bible Way to Heaven," which is Wilkerson's own gospel video presentation, and this is true for the church's statement of faith. What is presented is the typical Hyles' "1-2-3 now pray this prayer and you are going to heaven" program.

First Baptist Church's statement of faith on "Salvation" says, "We believe that God in His love provided salvation by sending His Son to become sin for us, taking the penalty of death upon Himself, dying in our place, shedding His own blood as the only acceptable atonement for our sin. Christ was buried and rose again the third day. This salvation is available as a free gift of God's grace to all who will receive Him by faith. At the moment one stops trusting in his own way and places his trust rather in Christ and His finished work, he is born of God and granted eternal life."

That sounds fine to a generation steeped in a no-repentance gospel. Yet the New Testament mentions "repent" and "repentance" at least 66 times. It is preached and demanded by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul, and the apostle Peter.

- "except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lu. 13:3).
- "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lu. 24:46-47).
- "REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Ac. 2:38).
- "REPENT ye therefore, and be converted" (Ac. 3:19).
- "Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted REPENTANCE unto life" (Ac. 11:19).

- "God ... now commandeth all men every where to REPENT" (Ac. 17:30).
- "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ac. 20:21).
- "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should REPENT and turn to God, and do works meet for REPENTANCE" (Ac. 26:19-20).
- "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them REPENTANCE to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Ti. 2:25).
- "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to REPENTANCE" (2 Pe. 3:9).
- "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet REPENTED not of the works of their hands ... Neither REPENTED they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Re. 9:20-21).

The salvation we see in the New Testament requires a turning and always *results in* the new birth and a dramatic change in life. There is not one example to the contrary.

- "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Th. 1:9).

Pastor Wilkerson told us that he does not care about and promote numbers, but his biographical sketch says this of his former church in California: "The Sunday school program grew in attendance from 849 to over 1,700 in the 12 years that he was pastor" (fbchammond.com, hylesanderson.edu, brmm.org). This is a boasting in numbers, and it is a nearly meaningless statistic as a spiritual measure of a church. Instead of counting the numbers of a promotionally hyped Sunday School program, it would be wiser and more scriptural to count the members who give clear evidence of salvation, who

are true disciples of Jesus Christ, who are actively looking for the return of Christ (Heb. 9:28), who are prayer warriors (“continued in ... prayers,” Ac. 2:42), who are skillful in the Scriptures (Heb. 5:13-14), who are raising a godly seed in the homes, who are active in the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:16), etc. These are the only true measures of a New Testament church, which is described in Scripture as a spiritual house made of living stones (regenerated saints) who are active as holy priests (1 Pe. 2:5).

As for me, I want nothing to do with First Baptist Church of Hammond. I renounce its public, Christ-shaming sins. I would much rather endure the wrath of the entire fundamental Baptist “good old boys network” than keep my mouth shut in the face of the great sins that have brought such ruination to churches and such reproach to the name of Jesus Christ. I won’t regret this at the judgment seat of Christ. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Eph. 5:11).



The following is excerpted from Thomas Ross, “Hyles Anderson College and First Baptist Church of Hammond: Do They Now Please God?” Feb. 2020:

“The current senior pastor at First Baptist of Hammond, which still runs Hyles-Anderson College, is John Wilkerson. Pastor Wilkerson has done some good things at First Baptist of Hammond. Unlike Jack Hyles, Mr. Wilkerson does not quote a verse at the beginning of a message and then just say stuff without ever referring to the Bible again. Furthermore, there is no evidence that Mr. Wilkerson is a child molester like the previous pastor, Mr. Schapp. ... Nor is there any evidence that Mr. Wilkerson has been immoral and disqualified himself from the ministry ... All of the above is good and a vast improvement from the hellish evils under Hyles and Schapp.

“However, John Wilkerson has not led First Baptist of Hammond and Hyles-Anderson to reject Jack Hyles’ false gospel. The heretical books by Jack Hyles, which call Biblical repentance an ‘enemy of soulwinning’ and which say that to receive Christ as Lord and Savior is (allegedly) works salvation, are still on sale in their bookstore, as are resources by Jack Hyles on how to do salesmanship soulwinning, and so on. Of course,

nothing defending the Biblical gospel or Biblical repentance is for sale. When Mr. Wilkerson gives someone his idea of the gospel on the First Baptist website, he completely omits *the word and the idea* of Biblical repentance but says that one must do two things, believe and then say the sinner’s prayer in order to be saved. The Hyles-Anderson doctrinal statement says nothing about repentance, leaving out the word and the idea from how the lost must be saved. The mission agency run by First Baptist of Hammond ... ‘Fundamental Baptist Missions International’ totally omits both the word and the idea of repentance in its doctrinal statement about salvation, rejecting what Baptists have historically believed about repentance and the gospel.

“Mr. Wilkerson has not repudiated the false gospel preached by Jack Hyles, but continues to promote Jack Hyles and his false gospel.

“Furthermore, corporate repentance involves acknowledging corporate guilt. Consider the prayer of Nehemiah: ‘Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses’ (Nehemiah 1:6-7).

“There has been no corporate repentance for the sins of Jack Hyles and First Baptist. ...

“In Revelation 2-3 Christ called on disobedient churches and their pastors to repent. If First Baptist of Hammond takes the name of Jack Hyles off from their college, publicly rejects and warns about Jack Hyles’ false gospel, stops selling Jack Hyles’ heretical books, stops covering up his immorality and admits he was disqualified from the ministry both for his own sins and those of his son (1 Timothy 3), renames its Jack Hyles Memorial Auditorium, cries out to God for mercy for the millions of people now in hell whom its members and others have influenced with its wicked, pseudo-soulwinning philosophy around the world, people who have been led into false professions, and is honest about its past, then we could conclude that perhaps, based on Revelation 2-3, Christ is now pleased with First Baptist of Hammond. Until then, no--no way. ...

“Christ did not say to cover up well-documented sin in people who are ‘big shots’ and pretend it never happened. On the contrary, He commanded in His Word: ‘Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things

without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality’ (1 Timothy 5:20-21).”

For much more on this subject see [**THE HYLES EFFECT: A SPREADING BLIGHT**](#), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.



The Hyles Effect- A Spreading Blight

(Previously named: *The Two Jacks*)

By David Cloud

This book documents the life and ministry of Jack Hyles, who pastored First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, for 42 years, and Jack Schaap, who took over the pastorate of the church when his father-in-law died in 2001. But the book is not merely about two men. It is a warning about a cultic model of ministry that has spread very far. Hyles set the pattern for errors that are still rampant. And the book is a positive call to build biblical churches.

The book is a warning about Quick Prayerism, promotionalism, numbers-ism, the abuse of pastoral authority, blind loyalty to man, cover-up and deception and rampant immorality, the neglect of church discipline, and unrepentant heresy.

Free eBook Available At:

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/hyles_effect.php

CHRIST IN YOU, WHAT A WONDER!

(Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022)

The following is from John Phillip’s commentary on 2 Corinthians: “In the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34) there are both eschatological clauses and soteriological clauses. The eschatological clauses are exclusively for the nation of Israel. The soteriological clauses are for the nation of Israel as well but, inclusively, they are also for us--as Jesus Himself taught (Mt. 26:27-29). With us the wondrous truth has already come to pass. The living God dwells in us. He is our God. We are His people. We occupy higher and holier ground than Israel ever knew. The God who said He would dwell with His ancient people Israel now says He will dwell in us. Think what it means. The heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. One word from Him and a hundred million galaxies burst into being and hurl themselves toward the ever-retreating boundaries of space, traveling at inconceivable velocities and on prodigious orbits and with mathematical precision. Yet He

dwells in us! One word from Him and countless angel hosts, who surround His throne on high and sing His praise and hang upon His words, leap into instant obedience to do His will. And He dwells in us! As for us, well might the psalmist say. ‘What is man that Thou art mindful of him?’ We dwell on a microscopic planet chasing around a moderate star located some thirty thousand light years from the galactic center, one among a hundred billion stars in a far-flung galaxy in near infinite space. And we, ourselves, but the dust of the earth. He dwells in us! Moreover, He proclaims Himself to a wondering universe, to be our God! ‘I will be their God,’ He says, ‘and they shall be my people’! What amazing grace! Saved to the uttermost! Wonder of wonders! Of course, He demands separation from a world which spat in the face of His Son and which took Him out to a skull-shaped hill and nailed Him to a cross of wood! How could He demand, or we deliver, anything less?”

Rejecting "QUICK PRAYERISM" but still PRACTICING it

By David Cloud

I thank the Lord that many preachers who have been trained in the unscriptural evangelistic methodology of Quick Prayerism have turned from it.

When I published "[Pentecost vs. Hylescost](#)" in April 1998, I got the largest response from preachers of any article I have published, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Over the years, hundreds of fundamental Baptist preachers have thanked me for speaking out about this error.

One Canadian pastor's response is typical. He said, "I have been to Hyles Pastor's School many times; twenty years ago I would have rejected your statements as nearly blasphemous, but today I know that you are right and that it is important that this error of quick prayerism be exposed. I am thankful for your willingness to do so and praise the Lord for your *O Timothy* magazine."

At the same time, I would warn that many preachers who say they agree with me about the error of Quick Prayerism still practice it to a certain degree.

The reason for this is that most preachers have been trained in this methodology and remain deeply influenced by it even after they see its error. It is very, very difficult to cast off tradition. Also, the vast majority of soul winning courses and programs are based on a Hyles-type methodology, and if these courses are used for training, the people are being educated in Quick Prayerism even though the preacher denounces it.

IN WHAT WAYS DO MEN WHO REJECT QUICK PRAYERISM STILL PRACTICE IT?

First, many men who agree with us about the error and danger of Quick Prayerism still emphasize "going to heaven" in their soul winning endeavors and tracts.

The Bible never mentions heaven in the context of gospel preaching. It mentions "eternal life," and eternal life certainly includes a home in heaven, *but the emphasis in the Bible is on eternal life STARTING NOW with a new life on earth.*

Note the following examples:

"And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; **Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.** And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham" (Lu. 19:8-9).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**" (John 3:3).

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers**" (Ac. 2:41-42).

"Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, **that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance**" (Ac. 26:19-20).

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life**" (Ro. 6:1-4).

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Co. 5:17).

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Gal. 6:15).

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:1-4).

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Th. 1:9).

Second, many men who agree with us about the error and danger of Quick Prayerism still emphasize a “sinner’s prayer” more than Scripture does.

There is no rote “sinner’s prayer” in the Bible.

The only example of a prayer for salvation is the publican’s, “God, be merciful to me a sinner” (Lu. 18:13).

Romans 10:9 says, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

But that’s not a rote sinner’s prayer.

We don’t see Jesus leading people in a sinner’s prayer. The woman at the well wasn’t led in a sinner’s prayer (Joh. 4). Peter didn’t lead the the 3,000 at Pentecost in a sinner’s prayer (Ac. 2:38-42). Philip didn’t lead the Ethiopian eunuch in a sinner’s prayer (Ac. 8:36-37),

Ananias didn’t lead Saul in a sinner’s prayer (Ac. 9:5-18). Peter didn’t lead Cornelius in a sinner’s prayer (Ac. 10:34-46). Paul didn’t lead people in a sinner’s prayer, not Sergius Paulus (Ac. 13:7-12), nor Lydia (Ac. 16:13-15), nor the Philippian jailer (Ac. 16:29-32), nor the Thessalonians (Ac. 17:2-4), nor the Bereans (Ac. 17:10-12), nor Dionysius and Damaris (Ac. 17:31-34), nor Crispus (Ac. 18:7-8), nor any others.

We’re not saying it is wrong to use a sinner’s prayer if it can help an individual come to Christ. I wasn’t led in a sinner’s prayer and didn’t say a sinner’s prayer. I simply repented and believed the gospel with my whole heart. On the other hand, my wife says that a sinner’s prayer was helpful to her as a teenager.

What we are saying is that the Bible does not give a model prayer or emphasize a rote prayer, and this is the infallible pattern. The Bible emphasizes repentance toward God (Ac. 20:21) and believing the gospel with all one’s heart (Ac. 8:37) and calling on Christ (Ro. 10:13) and coming to Christ (Mt. 11:28). That is what we find people doing in Scripture, as in the above-mentioned examples.

Third, many men who agree with us about the error and danger of Quick Prayerism are still too quick and shallow in dealing with people and too quick in pronouncing them saved.

In explaining to me that they don’t practice Quick Prayerism, many men have told me that they deal with souls for a half hour or an hour or so.

But if we are talking about dealing with a stranger, that usually isn’t *nearly enough* time.

A few years ago, I went on visitation with a godly and sincere fundamental Baptist pastor, and three times in one afternoon he shared a five- to ten-minute Romans Road plan (i.e., all have sinned against God, the wages of sin is death, Jesus died for our sin and rose from the dead, and those who believe can be saved). He then immediately asked the people three questions: “Does that make sense to you?” (All of them said it made sense.) “Do you have any questions?” (None of them did.) And “Would you pray to receive Christ right now?” (None of them did.) The pastor didn’t even hint to the individual that there would be a change in the direction of his life, didn’t hint of the requirement of repentance, made no mention of a turning. How different this is from Paul’s

address to the pagans on Mars Hill, in which he proclaimed that God “now commandeth all men every where to repent”!

This is not a pastor who is into the numbers racket or who is trying to impress some preacher’s fellowship or get his name in a national magazine. He is a man that I respect, a mature Christian leader who has been in the ministry for many years and has taken a bold scriptural stand on some unpopular issues. I believe the problem is that he is simply following a program of soul-winning that he has been taught and that is standard fare for a large percentage of fundamental Baptists. The methodology simply isn’t questioned.

In our work in South Asia, where we deal with Hindus and Buddhists who have never seen a Bible or heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, it usually takes months of dealing with people before they come to a proper understanding of the gospel and repentance and saving faith.

They don’t know even the ABC’s of Bible truth: What is the Bible? Who is God? How did the world begin? What is man? What is man’s nature? What is sin? What is death? Who is Jesus? Why do we say that He is the only Saviour? Why did He die? What is the substitutionary atonement? How do we know that He rose from the dead? Where is He today? What is salvation? What happens if I am not saved? What must I do to be saved? What must I do about my old religion?

Over the more than three decades we have dealt with people in South Asia, large numbers have attended our churches and Bible studies and come to an understanding of these things and have even said that they “believe,” but they have turned away because of opposition by friends, relatives, and society at large, and in the past, because of government persecution. The fact is that they never repented biblically and never had saving faith defined biblically.

As we have learned to deal with people with more and more biblical wisdom, Spirit-led discernment, and patience, the number of false professions has dramatically decreased.

In America and other Christianized western nations today, a vast number of people are nearly as biblically ignorant as Hindus and Buddhists in South Asia. They must be dealt with carefully. They must be taught the ABC’s of

the gospel and not short-changed. People with “Christian” backgrounds tend to reinterpret the gospel by their past education and experience. For example, a Roman Catholic has been taught a false gospel (sacramentalism), a false christ (the host of the mass), and a multiplicity of mediators. When he hears that he must pray to receive Christ, he thinks that he has prayed to receive Christ at every mass, so why not again! We have to be exceedingly careful to be as sure as possible that the individual we are dealing with truly and rightly understands the gospel.

We take every seeker through the [*Seeker’s Bible Study*](#), which goes word-by-word through 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. When we find a person who is interested enough to want to learn about Christ and salvation, we assign one of our mature church members to that person to meet regularly with the individual to go through the study. This way the person comes to a proper understanding of the gospel; he has occasion to ask any questions that are on his mind; a relationship is developed with him from our church; he is taught in a very practical way about repentance and saving faith.

(The [*Seeker’s Bible Study*](#) is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

I’m not saying that we give people the idea that they can be saved sometime in the future and that there is no hurry. We tell every person that now is the day of salvation (2 Co. 6:2), that they don’t know what a day will bring forth, that the Rapture might occur, that they might die, that they might become mentally incapacitated.

At the same time, no one can be saved apart from the Spirit’s supernatural work of conviction, drawing, and enlightenment and without a proper knowledge of the gospel and without exercising biblical repentance and faith.

Three thousand Jews were saved on the day of Pentecost, but that was a special day and those Jews had a strong background in Old Testament Scripture and they had the influence of John the Baptist’s ministry. They already knew the truth about God, holiness, judgment, man, the fall, redemption through a blood sacrifice, and the coming Lamb of God. That is a lot of truth! That is a good foundation upon which the gospel can be presented effectively.

One reason why Paul went to the synagogues was that he found there a large number of Gentiles who were either Jewish proselytes or were otherwise strongly drawn to the Jewish Scriptures. The Gentile proselytes were called “devout persons” (Ac. 17:4, 17). Paul found this to be good soil for gospel preaching (Ac. 13:42, 46; 14:1; 18:4). These Gentiles already had a foundation in the truth of God, man, the fall, sin, judgment, the vicarious atonement, divine revelation in the Scripture, and the coming of Christ.

Consider the Ethiopian eunuch who was saved through the ministry of Philip the evangelist (Ac. 8:26-39). The eunuch was already seeking; he was already reading Scripture and trying to understand it; he was already reading about the Messiah and His vicarious death. We don’t know how long Philip was with him. It was doubtless hours and could have been days. Philip stayed with him until the Spirit of God had done His mighty work in the man’s heart and soul and he exclaimed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Ac. 8:37)! The result was that he was born again, baptized, and “went on his way rejoicing.”

How long does it take for someone to be saved? It takes as long as it takes! Each individual is different. Each place where the gospel is preached is different.

God’s people must not be hasty and pick fruit before it is ripe, before God has performed His great work in the sinner’s heart and brought him or her to saving faith and regeneration.

I am zero point Calvinist, but I believe this because I believe the Bible! Salvation is 100% of God. The soul winner’s part is to present the gospel, pray, invite, and watch for God’s supernatural ministry.

The law of God was given to plow the soil of the human soul to prepare it for salvation. “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin” (Ro. 3:19-20).

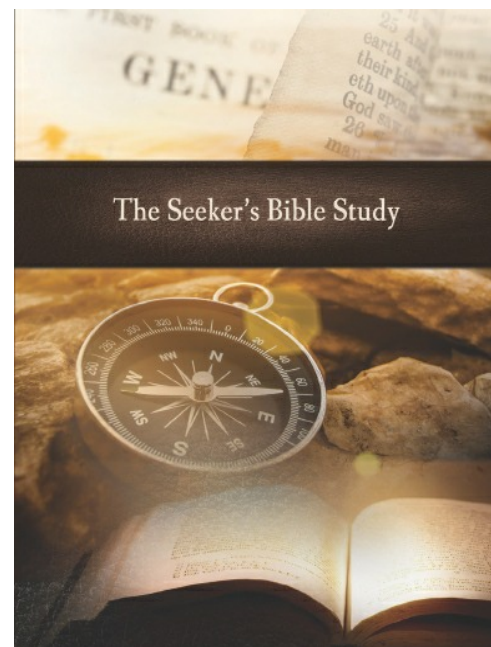
This is how we must use the law in gospel work. This is how Christ used it in the Sermon on the Mount. He showed that the law requires inner righteousness and

purity, not only external righteousness (e.g., Mt. 5:21-22, 27-28). He showed that salvation requires more righteousness than that of the Pharisees, who were the most religious people on earth (Mt. 5:20)! He showed that God’s law requires perfection (Mt. 5:48)! Compare Galatians 3:10, “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” This law-produced knowledge leads the sinner to ask, “What then can I do to be saved”? And the answer is repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Ac. 20:21). “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24).

We must observe, too, that in some fundamental ways, dealing with souls in the 21st century is not the same as dealing with souls in the 1st century. We live in an hour of great apostasy, an hour when the gospel waters have been mightily muddled by false Christianity.

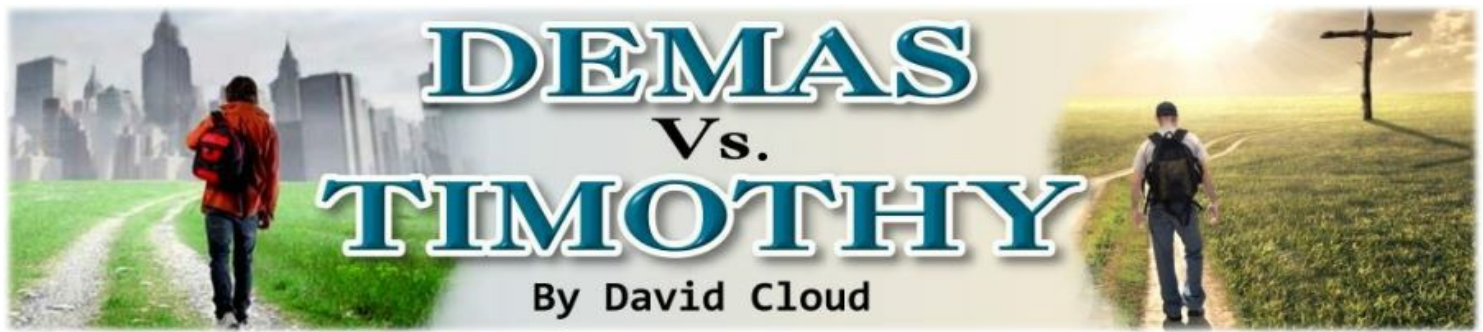
We must be exceedingly wise and cautious. We must ever pursue spiritual wisdom and biblical education about these most important things and not be content with a little learning and a small training.

The Seeker’s Bible Study



Free eBook Available At:

www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/seekers_bible_study.php



For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia” (2 Ti. 4:10).

We must consider the situation. Paul was in prison awaiting his execution. This was his final epistle. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Ti. 4:6-7).

Demas was one of Paul’s co-workers. He had ministered with Paul in Colosse (Col. 4:14). He was mentioned in Paul’s epistle to Philemon (Phm. 1:24).

Demas is named. When Paul spoke of Demas’ apostasy, he used his name. He didn’t speak of him anonymously.

Demas is named publicly. Paul wanted Timothy and everyone reading his epistle in the churches to know about Demas. Paul didn’t try to hide what Demas had done. He wanted everyone to know about it as a sharp, public warning.

Demas forsook Paul. Demas forsook God’s calling, but he also forsook Paul. When a man departs from God’s call on his life, he forsakes his fellow church members and co-workers. He is a bad example to them. He lets them down. He discourages their hearts. He leaves them to do his share of the work. Demas cared only for himself.

Demas loved this present world. Paul tells us the secret of Demas’ heart. We don’t know what Demas told people. Perhaps he told them that he needed to pay off some debts. Perhaps he told them that he was weary and needed a rest. Perhaps he told them that Christ’s service was too hard. Perhaps he told them that someone had offended him. Perhaps he told them that Paul was too strict. We don’t know what Demas was saying, but God exposes the true motive of his heart. He loved this

present world. That world is described in 1 John 2:16 as “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” We know that this didn’t happen overnight. Demas had loved the world secretly in his heart for some time. He had pretended to love Christ and to serve Christ, but his real love was for the world.

Instead of rejecting that love and turning from it, he secretly nurtured it. Finally he followed his true heart.

Demas departed into Thessalonica. We aren’t told exactly what Demas did there. It was a prosperous place. Perhaps he engaged in some business practice to enrich himself or to pay debts. Thessalonica was a place of worldly pleasure. We can have no doubt that Demas engaged in those pleasures.

Demas ruined his testimony. He sold his calling for a bowl of soup like Esau. His name is enshrined in Scripture as a warning to all. Demas’ deed is recorded in Scripture. God called him by the gospel, and he said yes to Christ, and God called him to the ministry, but he turned away. That is a wicked deed. It is no small thing.

In contrast, we see Timothy. He remained steadfast to the end. He continued to be Paul’s faithful co-worker. He kept the faith. He soldiered on in God’s power. He never turned aside from God’s calling. He continued preaching God’s Word (2 Ti. 4:2). He rejected the apostasy (2 Ti. 4:3-4). He watched in all things and endured afflictions and did the work of an evangelist and made full proof of his ministry (2 Ti. 4:5). When he had fears, he conquered them by faith in God (2 Ti. 1:7). When he had worldly temptations, he fled them and overcame them by following righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Ti. 2:22).

Timothy’s Christian reputation shone brightly in this world and it will shine brightly forever. His name is enshrined in Scripture as a good example for all to follow.

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS LOCKED OUT OF TWITTER FOR CALLING TRANSGENDER OFFICIAL A MAN

(Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Mar. 23, 2022:

"Twitter has taken action against Christian media platforms the *Babylon Bee* and *The Christian Post* for calling Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Rachel Levine, a man. *The Babylon Bee*, a satirical news site, was locked out of Twitter for 'hateful conduct' after posting a tweet naming Levine, a transgender woman on the Biden Administration, as their 'Man of The Year' last Saturday. The tweet was a form of mockery against *USA Today*, which named Levin one of its 'Women of the Year' earlier this month. Despite being punished by Twitter, *Babylon Bee's* CEO Seth Dillon asserted that they will not delete the tweet. 'We're not deleting anything,' he wrote Monday on his account. 'Truth is not hate speech. If the cost of telling the truth is the loss of our Twitter account, then so be it.' ... Twitter also imposed the same punishment on Christian news publication *The Christian Post* for tweeting its article with the title, 'USA Today names Rachel Levine, a man, among its Women of the Year.' On Friday, Twitter emailed *The Christian Post* accusing the news outlet of violating its policy against

'hateful conduct' and banned the account from posting new articles and 'temporarily' limited some other features on its Twitter account. In a statement issued to *Faithwire*, *The Christian Post's* senior investigative reporter on sexual ethics and the trans movement, Brandon Showalter, explained why the outlet refuses to take down the tweet. 'The reason that *The Christian Post* is such a stickler for language, especially when reporting on the developments of transgender ideology, is because we value the truth,' Showalter said. 'If we fail to maintain the integrity of what and how we report on these hot-button issues, we do a great disservice to our readers who count on us to communicate honestly. We simply cannot, in good conscience, overwrite the truth of our physiology with words that have no meaning or the opposite meaning,' he asserted."

ELON MUSK CALLS OUT TWITTER FOR UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Elon Musk, one of America's great inventors, scientists, and entrepreneurs, has called out Twitter, the social media giant, for its draconian censorship. "Given that Twitter serves as the de facto public town square, failing to adhere to free speech principles fundamentally undermines democracy. Free speech



is essential to a functioning democracy. What should be done?" (@elonmusk, Mar. 26, 2022). "Musk's 79.1 million followers immediately called on him to either buy Twitter himself or build a new platform. Former CIA analyst and conservative radio host Buck Sexton tweeted, 'Yes, Buy twitter or please build one. Save the country from these psycho Silicon Valley libs'" ("Elon Musk," *Fox Business*, Mar. 26, 2022). Musk is founder of SpaceX and Tesla.

CANADA'S TRUDEAU REBUKED BY MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR JACK BOOT TREATMENT OF TRUCKERS (Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Canada's Trudeau," *Fox News*, Mar. 27, 2022: "Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with scathing rebuke from some Members of European Parliament (MEP) last week after he delivered a speech to the European Union. Independent Croatian MEP Mislav Kolakusic accused Trudeau of engaging in 'dictatorship of the worst kind' because of how his government treated the peaceful Freedom Convoy in February. 'Under your quasi-liberal boot in recent months,' said Kolakusic, 'we watched how you trample women with horses, how you block the bank accounts of single



parents so that they can't even pay their children's education and medicine, that they can't pay utilities, mortgages for their homes.' Alternative for Germany MEP Christine Anderson also called out Trudeau, calling him 'a disgrace for any democracy.' ... Another Alternative for Germany MEP, Bernhard Zimniok, tweeted, 'I tried to prevent the speech of PM Trudeau in the EU Parliament because he recently trampled on the core values of democracy.' ... Romanian MEP Cristian Terheş boycotted Trudeau's speech entirely. Trudeau has also faced backlash at home for how he responded to the Freedom Convoy. ... A group of Canadian clergy sent an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau last month rebuking him for invoking the Emergencies Act to quell the Freedom Convoy and for other actions they described as 'tyrannical.'"

OVER HALF OF U.S. ABORTIONS NOW DONE WITH PILLS (Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Over Half," *Newsmax*, Feb. 24, 2022: "More than half of U.S. abortions are now done with pills rather than surgery, an upward trend that spiked during the pandemic with the increase in telemedicine, a report released Thursday shows. In 2020, pills accounted for 54% of all U.S. abortions, up from roughly 44% in 2019. The preliminary numbers come from the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. The group, by contacting providers, collects more comprehensive abortion data than the U.S. government. ... Use of abortion pills has been rising since



2000 when the Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone--the main drug used in medication abortions. The new increase 'is not surprising, especially during COVID,'" said Dr. Marji Gold, an abortion provider in New York City. She said patients seeking abortions at her clinic have long chosen the pills over the medical procedure. ... So far this year, 16 state legislatures have proposed bans or restrictions on medication abortion, according to the Guttmacher report."

OPPOSITION TO WHO'S PUSH FOR NEW PANDEMIC TREATY (Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "WHO's push for new treaty," *Just the News*, Mar. 17, 2022: "Negotiations have begun to establish a globally binding agreement to combat future pandemics, raising concerns that such an accord would undermine national sovereignty and centralize too much power in the hands of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' health agency. In a recent open letter, the World Council for Health, a coalition of scientists, doctors, lawyers, and civil society advocacy organizations, lambasted the idea as dangerous and illegitimate. 'The proposed WHO agreement is unnecessary, and is a threat to sovereignty and inalienable rights,'



Dr Astrid Stuckelberger

the council wrote. ‘It increases the WHO’s suffocating power to declare unjustified pandemics, impose dehumanizing lockdowns, and enforce expensive, unsafe, and ineffective treatments against the will of the people.’ Prominent health experts such as Drs. Pierre Kory and Astrid Stuckelberger have endorsed the council’s open letter and been outspoken against the treaty under discussion. The agreement would effectively create one world government under the guise of creating a standardized global pandemic response, according to Stuckelberger, a member of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva and Lausanne.”

POLL: AMERICANS STILL FAVORABLE TOWARD ISRAEL

(Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Poll,” *Israel365 News*, Mar. 23,



2022: “[A]ccording to a new Gallup poll from February ... the favorability of the Jewish state itself remains high, with 71% of U.S. adults saying they have a favorable view of Israel while 27% have a favorable opinion of the Palestinian Authority. That percentage of Americans who side with the Palestinians represents a new high. The poll also found that 77% of Republicans sympathize more with Israelis while only 13% with the Palestinians. Among independents, 54% side with Israelis and 26% with Palestinians. And with Democrats, 40% favor the Israelis and 38% the Palestinians.”

ONE DAY IN ETERNITY (Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “High in the North in a land called Svithjod, there is a mountain. It is a hundred miles long and a hundred miles high and once every thousand years a little bird comes to this mountain to sharpen its beak. When the mountain has thus been worn away, a single day of eternity will have passed” (Hendrik Willem van Loon, *The Story of Mankind*). “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:46). “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

OUR DECEPTIVE EYES (Friday Church News Notes, April 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, April 30, 2021: “Do your eyes ever play tricks on you? Our eyes regularly play tricks on us with the help of our



brains. Repeated research has shown that the images we see are not exactly what our eyes see. Our eyes and brains work together to construct the images we call sight. It’s not that our eyes are out to hoodwink us. Most of the time our eyes are working to help us. Working together, our brain and eyes add logical details to the images we see. Each of us has a blind spot in our vision because there are no vision cells where the optic nerve is. Instead of showing us a spot of nothing at the blind point in our field of vision, our brain invents an image from surrounding details. Your brain pulls the same trick on you when you proofread your completed manuscript. While others can still find typos, you may not. Your brain knows what you are saying and so it automatically shows you a repaired version, making many of your typing errors invisible. Your pupils can reveal your thoughts. Studies show that when seeing unpleasant scenes the pupils retract. Pleasant or interesting scenes cause the pupils to open wider. Charles Darwin wrote, ‘To suppose that the eye, with all of its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree.’ We don’t often agree with Charles Darwin, but this time we

do! Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: McCutcheon, M. 1989, *The Compass in Your Nose*, Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher.”



FINNISH COURT CLEARS CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN, BISHOP OF “HATE SPEECH”

(Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *The Daily Signal*, Mar. 30, 2022: “A Finnish court has dismissed all charges against a Christian member of Parliament and a bishop charged under Finland’s ‘hate speech’ and ‘ethnic agitation’ law for supporting traditional marriage. The court ordered the government to reimburse the two. **In a unanimous ruling Wednesday, the Helsinki District Court determined that it isn’t its job ‘to interpret biblical concepts’ in dropping the case against Päivi Räsänen**, a member of the Finnish Parliament and former minister of interior, and Bishop Juhana Pohjola. ... Early in the case, the prosecutor’s office said Räsänen’s statements ‘violate the equality and dignity of homosexuals, so they transcend the boundaries of freedom of speech and religion.’ The prosecutor quoted a Bible verse included in Räsänen’s tweet. In the closing argument of the trial, the prosecution alleged that the word ‘sin’ could be ‘harmful’ and called for heavy fines in the event of a guilty verdict. Prosecutors charged Pohjola,

bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, with one count of violating the law in connection with hosting a pamphlet published by Räsänen on his church’s website 17 years ago. **But the court didn’t agree and issued a stinging defeat to the government, ordering the prosecution to pay 60,000 euros (about \$66,940) in legal costs**, according to Alliance Defending Freedom. The government has seven days to appeal. Räsänen, 62, who is a member of the center-right Christian Democrat Party, has been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1995. From 2011 to 2015, she was the government’s interior minister. In 2004, Räsänen published a pamphlet, titled ‘Male and Female He Created Them,’ about the Bible’s teaching on marriage. In 2019, she spoke on a radio program about her controversial tweet including a photo of Romans 1: 24–27, which says that ‘women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones’ and ‘Men committed shameful acts with other men.’ For that, prosecutors charged Räsänen with three counts of violating Finland’s ethnic agitation law.”

ELON MUSK BECOMES LARGEST SHAREHOLDER IN TWITTER

(Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Apr. 5, 2022: “After a week of saying that he would launch a new social media platform, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has become Twitter’s largest shareholder. As reported by *Fox Business*, a Monday filing from the SEC showed that the Tesla and SpaceX CEO bought 73.5 million shares of Twitter, giving him a 9.2

percent stake in Twitter Inc. and making him the platform’s largest shareholder. Following Monday’s news, Twitter shares jumped by more than 25 percent, with individual stocks priced at \$49.81. Before making the purchase, Musk asked his followers whether he should launch a new social platform over Twitter’s tendency to censor dissenting voices. ‘Given that Twitter serves as the de facto public town square, failing to adhere to free speech principles fundamentally undermines democracy.’ ... The news comes after Twitter recently locked out the Christian media platforms *The Babylon Bee* and *The Christian Post* for calling Rachel Levine, a transgender Biden official who serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, a man. On Tuesday, *Babylon Bee* CEO Seth Dillon revealed that Musk was considering buying Twitter after Dillon confirmed that the satirical news site had been locked out. ‘Musk reached out to us before he polled his followers about Twitter’s commitment to free speech. He wanted to confirm that we had, in fact, been suspended,’ Dillon tweeted. ‘He even mused on that call that he might need to buy Twitter. Now he’s the largest shareholder and has a seat on the board.’”





26% OF AMERICANS POLLED, BACK VILE EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNGEST OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - According to a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies, 26 percent of registered voters oppose a new Florida law that forbids transsexualism to be taught in kindergarten through grade 3 of public schools. While 61 percent support the law, a margin of two to one, it is still frightful that more than a quarter of Americans polled support the idea that it is acceptable for schools to indoctrinate the smallest children with godless, depraved transsexualism. The law, signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, is simple and straightforward: "Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards." The only problem with the bill is that it doesn't go far enough. It should forbid all sex education and cover kindergarten to 12th grade. The federalized public school system has long been a humanist/leftist/godless propaganda machine, a breeding ground for the filthy pop culture, that is destroying the nation from within. Nothing "conservatives" do to "save the nation" and "make America great

again" will have any fundamental longterm effect without its dismantling or a wholesale abandoning.

PRONOUN PASSPORTS COMING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Pronoun Passports," *Lighthouse Trails*, Feb. 28, 2022: "Insanity over pronouns has hit the Midwest. Children and teachers are being pressured to declare their pronouns, and parents are livid. In the Olentangy school district near Columbus, a middle school language teacher required all the students to stand up and declare his or her pronouns. A high school teacher in that same district told the class to let her know if she should change a student's pronouns when contacting parents. In the Dublin (OH) City Schools, a class of elementary students was asked to name their individual pronouns. At Hilliard Davidson High School (a Columbus suburb), teachers are called to the principal's office and forced to apologize to a student if an unwanted pronoun is used. At that same school, an assistant principal now signs his correspondence with 'he/him' following his name. How long before children are called to the principal's office for being unwilling to state

their pronouns? Or will all of our children go along with this? They will unless their parents spell it out for them."

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN HOME SCHOOLING IN AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Public Schools Are Cesspools of Debauchery; Get Your Kids Out Now, Before It is Too Late," PJMedia, Apr. 1, 2022: "If there's one thing we've learned during the pandemic it's that many parents had no idea what was going on in their kids' schools. Oh, parents knew there was crazy stuff going on in *other* schools, but by and large, there was a sense of NIMBY --it's not happening in *my* backyard. Sadly, we've become increasingly aware of the abuses and indoctrination children across the country are suffering at the hands of unhinged teachers--teachers pushing their left-wing political agendas, encouraging children to be sexual deviants, and treating parents like they are not qualified to raise their own children without the state intervening in their families. ... Many parents are completely fed up with the nonsense being shoved down their kids' throats in public schools. Not only that, many realized during the lockdowns that they enjoyed having their kids home and overseeing their education and began to seriously consider homeschooling as a viable option. The results are simply stunning. The homeschool population, as estimated by Dr. Brian Ray at the National Homeschool Education Research Institute, has grown from 2.6 million school-aged children in 2019 to a whopping 3.7 million in 2021.





Homeschooling had been growing steadily from 2016 to 2020, but the explosive growth in the educational option is staggering. ... Dr. Ray told PJ Media, ‘Rather than education being controlled by an institution that is often non-accommodating to a student’s needs and dreams or hostile toward a family’s values, homeschooling opens up many more possibilities, freedoms, dependabilities, and joys. **Parents are learning that homeschooling is**

associated with academic success, strong social development, children with a joy to learn, and family life that is not controlled by the vicissitudes and dubious values of a state-run institution.’ ... one of the best ways to stop the madness is to pull your kids out of public schools and homeschool them.”

APOSTATE CHURCH REJECTS HYMNS WRITTEN BY “WHITE PEOPLE” (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - First United Church of Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago, “will not be using any music or liturgy written or composed by white people,” according to their website. They are



“fasting from whiteness.” Instead, they will use the “voices of Black people, indigenous people, and people of color.” The church, which is pastored by a white man named John Edgerton, “values people of all races, ethnicities, cultural identities, gender identities, sexual orientations...” A biblical church doesn’t choose hymns on the basis of the skin color of the composers. A biblical church cares absolutely zero about skin color,

FLYING SPIDERS (Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, February 24, 2022: “Spider silk begins as a liquid protein made by silk glands on the spider’s abdomen. Spiders make many kinds of silk for different uses. As the liquid silk is forced through the spider’s spinnerets, it begins to dry. The spinnerets pull and stretch the silk, creating just the right kind of silk for the spider’s use. Though the result seems thin and weak to us, ounce for ounce, spider silk is stronger than steel. Web-building spiders make two types of silk for their traps. The basic structure of the web is made of strong, nonsticky silk. Then the spider adds a sticky, elastic silk to trap its prey. Some webs are irregular, others are flat and sheet-like, while still others are shaped like funnels. All of us have admired the beautiful orb web. However, spiders also have many other ways in which they use their silk. The ogre-faced spider makes a net that it throws around its intended victim. The European water spider builds its web underwater. It stores its air supply in the web. The lasso spider twirls a single strand of silk over its head. A tiny drop of sticky silk at the end of the lasso captures its prey when the lasso is thrown.



Probably the most creative use of silk is by the young of some species. When they hatch, they produce long loops of silk that catch the wind and send them floating off to new places. The spider’s skill in producing and using silk had to come from Someone wiser and more clever than the spider. Clearly the spider has been well-equipped and instructed by its Creator. Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF.: Pinkston, William S., Jr., 1980. *BIOLOGY for Christian Schools*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press. p. 413.”

knowing that all men are one blood and there is no such thing as “race.” But a biblical church cares deeply about biblical morality and doctrine. A biblical church believes the Bible’s teaching that God made man male and female. A biblical church chooses hymns based on whether they glorify Jesus Christ as God and Saviour and whether the doctrine is sound according to the faith once delivered to the saints.

CHINA MESSAGING APP CENSORS THE WORD

“CHRIST” (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from China Aid, Apr. 4, 2022: “Since the Chinese Communist Party’s ‘Measures for the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services’ came into effect on March 1, Christian WeChat accounts and groups became the main area of suppression. Early Rain Covenant Church’s Ran Yunfei has a WeChat group called ‘How to read.’ Group members recommended book titles and voted on them with WeChat’s built-in voting. During the most recent round, group members recommended the following books ... ‘Imitation of Christ’ by Thomas à Kempis ... However, the voting was not able to pass WeChat’s censorship, showing the following message: ‘The word Christ you are trying to publish

violates regulations on Internet Information Services, including but not limited to the following categories: pornography, gambling, and drug abuse, excessive marketing, incitement. The issue can be resolved through one of the following: (1) Edit your content (2) Submit for review.’ On December 20, 2021, China’s State Administration for Religious Affairs published the ‘Measures for the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services’ on its official website. It was created through joint efforts of five departments: State Administration for Religious Affairs, Cyberspace Administration of China, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Public Security, and Ministry of State Security. ... Unless the conditions specified by article 15 and article 16 are met, no organization and individual may teach on the internet, conduct religious education and training, publish sermons, repost or link related content, organize religious activities on the internet, or live broadcast or record and broadcast religious ceremonies.”

NOTE FROM D. CLOUD: We don’t recommend the book by Kempis or any of the contemplative prayer materials. See the free eBook *Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer* at www.wayoflife.org.

UNNECESSARY COVID DEATHS CAUSED BY STRANGE BAN ON

REPURPOSED DRUGS (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Did Dismissals of Safe Outpatient Drugs Cause Needless Covid Deaths?” *The Federalist*, Feb. 2, 2022: “Dr. Miguel Sierra-Hoffman, an associate professor of infectious



disease at Baylor Scott & White Hospital and of pulmonary medicine at Texas A&M University, who has overseen the care of thousands of COVID patients at multiple hospitals, remains convinced that the embrace of outpatient treatments early on would have been a difference maker—and an economical one. ‘If we had given people aspirin, ivermectin, colchicine, and if they get complicated, a little dexamethasone, we could have saved the world with one dollar.’ For his part, Sen. Ron Johnson [R-Wis.] blames public health authorities for orchestrating a broader campaign against early treatment with repurposed drugs. ‘Rather than seriously consider evidence showing the potential of early treatments including ivermectin, your agencies prefer to mischaracterize, conflate and misconstrue anything that goes against the mainstream narrative and the financial interests of the pharmaceutical industry,’ he wrote in an October 2021 letter to Biden administration health officials.”

PRAYER AGAINST BIG TECH CENSORSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Man’s most valuable privilege is prayer. God made man in His own image so that man can know Him. Man did not evolve; he is not an animal. Man rebelled and fell into





condemnation, but God has provided redemption at great cost through His Son Jesus Christ. Fallen man, who is separated from God by his sin, can be reconciled and can walk with God as did Enoch of old. Nothing is more wonderful. God invites, encourages, exhorts, and commands His redeemed children to pray in His will and to expect answers. The Lord Jesus said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). The apostle John said, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14-15). God has expressed His will in Scripture. We are told in 2 Thessalonians that the devil’s mystery of iniquity is at work in this world toward the goal of putting his man on the throne, but it will happen in God’s time. “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed...” (2 Th. 2:6-8). The mystery of iniquity is anti-Christ. It is everything that is against God. It is false religion, false Christianity, heresies, apostasies, Humanism, Evolution, Marxism, Socialism,

anarchy, lawlessness, debauchery, globalism, totalitarianism, and much more. But God is restraining the mystery of iniquity, present active continual tense, and He *will* restrain until His good business with the Church Age is finished. God holds the reigns of the times and seasons (Daniel 2:20-21), and the Church’s Great Commission is in effect to the very end of the age, as Christ said in that context, “lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt. 28:20). Until then, God will restrain the devil’s program, and God’s people, as laborers together with God, can pray for restraint. So I pray that God will confound the totalitarian spirit in Twitter, Facebook, Google, YouTube, etc. In today’s context, these are more like telephone companies and postal systems. Though privately owned, they are public carriers of information, and they should not be engaged in censorship. The Antichrist will be totalitarianism personified, but it is not his time yet, so we pray against the spirit of antichrist that is in proud men in high places who think they are in control of “right-speak.” John told us that there were many antichrists even in his day, 2,000 years ago (1 Jo. 2:18). Whatever God is doing, God’s people can have full confidence in praying for that thing. He has told us to pray for those at every level of government, “For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Ti. 2:1-4). It is obvious that God wants to use the prayers of His redeemed people to change things in this present world. That is a wonderful

thing, but it must be acted on. If God’s redeemed people would rise up and get on praying ground and really pray, there is no telling what God would do. Moses prayed, and God did not destroy Israel. Hannah prayed, and God gave her a son who did great and mighty things. Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed, and God destroyed the most powerful army on earth. *That* God is not dead.

FACULTY OF BAPTIST UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS HOMOSEXUAL STUDENT UNION (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Baylor University, known as the largest Baptist university in the world, is now openly supporting “homosexual Christianity.” On Aug. 18, 2019, Linda Livingstone, Baylor President, said in a letter to students, faculty, and staff that the school is “committed to providing a loving and caring community for all students--including our LGBTQ students ... Students are not disciplined or expelled from Baylor for same-sex attraction. In addition to the ongoing presence of many caring, trusted faculty and staff members, Baylor provides resources for LGBTQ students through the Title IX Office, Bias Response Team, Chaplain’s Office and Spiritual Life, and the Counseling Center. Baylor counselors do not practice or condone conversion or reparative therapy. With this said, we understand that we must do more



to demonstrate love and support for our students who identify as LGBTQ.” On Feb. 8, 2021, Baylor’s Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting the establishment of a homosexual student organization called Gamma Alpha Upsilon (“Faculty Senate passes resolution,” *Baylor Lariat*, Feb. 9, 2021). The vote was 26 in favor, 9 opposed, and 4 abstaining. The school’s website posted the following statement; “We acknowledge the complexity of issues surrounding human sexuality and desire to engage in this conversation with humility, prayerfulness and convicted civility.” The issue of homosexuality is clear when considered biblically and a Christian school should have no “conversation” on sexuality that is not biblically based.

THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD (Friday Church News Notes, April 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, April 5, 2022: “The hair that you see is nothing more than dead protein that is produced by the cells of the hair follicle anchored inside the layers of the skin. The total number of hair follicles on the adult body is about 5 million; only about 100,000 of them are on the scalp. Each hair grows out of one follicle for about three to five years. Then the hair is shed and the follicle rests for about three months



before starting to grow hair again. So, you see, once you know how many hairs are on your head, it’s still no easy job to keep track of their changing number. The average scalp hair grows about one inch every two or three months. This means that each day, your head is growing the equivalent of one hair, 100 feet long—that’s nearly seven miles per year! Yes, it’s true--the Creator cares so much about you that He knows from moment to moment how many hairs are on your head. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref.: *Science Digest*, June, 1979, page 71.”

PLANNED PARENTHOOD’S BLACK GENOCIDE (Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from “I Don’t Stand with Planned Parenthood,” Ryan Bomberger, theRadianceFoundation.org, Feb. 3, 2021: “A burglar can’t denounce theft. A pimp can’t denounce sex trafficking. And Planned Parenthood can’t denounce violence. They killed 345,672 defenseless humans according to their own latest annual report. Abortion, which rips apart a human being, is violent. And sometimes, as in the case of Tonya Reaves, Planned Parenthood prefers to protect its own daily violence over the life of a woman. Tonya Reaves died inside a Chicago Planned Parenthood abortion biz. She bled to death for 5.5 hours because Planned Parenthood refused to call 911. Her life, and that of her unborn child, had no value to them. Abortion is violence ... against the unborn and their mothers, regardless of race or ethnicity. Planned Parenthood now calls itself an ‘anti-racist organization.’ If abortion weren’t so heinous their claim would be

hilarious. It would be like cigarette companies calling themselves ‘anti-cancer.’ Nope. Sorry. Doesn’t work. **In New York City, where the nation’s largest chain of abortion violence is headquartered, more black babies have been aborted than born alive for decades! Planned Parenthood calls this ‘reproductive justice.’ They kill 318 black lives every single day** (calculated by multiplying Planned Parenthood’s 345,672 abortions in latest report by the CDC’s 33.6% of abortions on black babies.) Fannie Lou Hamer, famed anti-poverty and voting rights activist, called abortion a ‘genocide’ among blacks. We echo her sentiments. For the nation’s largest abortion and baby-parts-trafficking chain, only some black lives matter. You can’t denounce violence and racism when you *are* violence *and* racism. ... So don’t be fooled by Big Abortion. They may have a billion-dollar budget, but we have the Truth. Don’t let an industry rooted in human destruction fool you into thinking it cares about violence. ... They are who they are: violence wrapped up in pink banners and ludicrous hashtags. There is real healthcare at over 13,000 (taxpayer-funded) federally qualified health centers and community health centers that don’t commit the violence of abortion.”





OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW BANNING MOST ABORTIONS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Gov. Stitt Signs Law," *The Christian Post*, Apr. 12, 2022: "The governor of Oklahoma has signed a bill into law banning nearly all abortions in the state except when a mother's life is at risk in a medical emergency. Those who violate the law could face up to \$100,000 in fines and 10 years in prison. Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt signed Senate Bill 612 into law Tuesday, saying he aims to make the Sooner State 'the most pro-life state in the country.' ... The bill passed the state's House of Representatives in a 70-14 vote last week, more than a year after it passed the state Senate. ... In both chambers, one Republican joined Democrats in opposing the measure. ... 'As governor, I represent all 4 million Oklahomans,' Stitt said at the signing ceremony. 'They overwhelmingly support protecting life in the state of Oklahoma. We want Oklahoma to be the most pro-life state in the country. We want to outlaw abortion in the state of Oklahoma.'"

ALABAMA SIGNS TWO TRANSGENDER BILLS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Apr. 12, 2022: "Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has signed a pair of bills she says will protect children and promote common sense throughout the state by banning transgender treatments for minors and requiring restrooms and locker rooms to be divided by biological sex. 'There are very real challenges facing our young people, especially with today's societal pressures and modern culture,' Ivey said in a statement. **'I believe very strongly that if the Good Lord made you a boy, you are a boy, and if he made you a girl, you are a girl.'** ... One bill, SB184, makes it a crime for doctors to prescribe puberty blockers and hormones to children and to perform sex-change surgeries. Among the surgeries prohibited on minors are castrations, vasectomies and hysterectomies. 'We should ... protect our children from these radical, life-altering drugs and surgeries when they are at such a vulnerable stage in life,' Ivey said. A second bill, HB322, requires public schools to divide restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms and shower rooms by biological sex."

OHIO PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TO PAY \$400,000 IN DAMAGES AFTER PROFESSOR PUNISHING OVER PREFERRED PRONOUNS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Ohio Public University," *Fox News*, Apr. 16, 2022: "A public university in Ohio will pay \$400,000 in damages and attorney fees after punishing a professor for declining a male student's demand to be referred to as a female. Nick Meriwether, a philosophy professor at Shawnee

State University, responded to a male student's question during a January 2018 political philosophy class by saying 'Yes, sir.' When the class ended, the student identified to the professor as transgender, and demanded to be referred to as a woman in the future, along with 'feminine titles and pronouns,' according to the Alliance Defending Freedom, which represented the professor in court. Doing so, Meriwether maintained, would have violated his convictions as a Christian. Meriwether didn't agree to the student's request, and court documents state that the student became belligerent and told the professor that he would be fired. The student filed a complaint with the university, launching an investigation which eventually determined that Meriwether 'effectively created a hostile environment' for the student because he would not use the preferred pronouns. Meriwether did offer to call the student by any name requested, but the student did not accept the offer. Shawnee State University would then place a written warning in Meriwether's personnel file, which stated that 'further corrective actions' would be taken if a similar incident occurred. The professor sued Shawnee State University, claiming that it violated his 'right to free exercise of religion under the First Amendment.' In March 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled in favor of Meriwether, reversing a



district court's prior dismissal of the lawsuit and allowing the professor to continue his lawsuit against the university. Alliance Defending Freedom announced on Thursday that it reached a \$400,000 settlement with Shawnee State University, which will cover damages and attorney fees. Shawnee State University will also rescind the written warning to Meriwether in June 2018."



DUTCH DOCTORS CAN EUTHANIZE ELDERLY WITHOUT THEIR AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO TIME AND MANNER

(Friday Church News Notes, April 22, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Dutch Doctors Can Now Secretly Place Sedatives in Food," *Christian Headlines*, Nov. 25, 2020: "[A] Netherlands medical committee has

changed its code of practice to allow doctors to slip sedatives into the food or drink of patients with dementia before they are euthanized so as to prevent them from becoming 'disturbed, agitated or aggressive.' The change in rules by the Netherlands review committee for euthanasia comes after the country's Supreme Court ruled in April that a doctor who carried out assisted suicide on a 74-year-old patient with Alzheimer's did not commit murder

by placing a sedative into the patient's coffee. The patient woke up and had to be held down by her daughter and husband, the BBC reported. The patient previously had written a statement saying she 'wanted to be euthanized before entering a care home,' but adding that she wanted to decide 'while still in my senses and when I think the time is right,' the BBC said. The new rules say it 'is not necessary for the doctor to agree with the patient [about] the time or manner in which euthanasia will be given,' according to *The Guardian*. ... Ethicist Wesley J. Smith criticized the new rule, saying a doctor should not be able to decide 'why and when' a patient dies. 'Once a society accepts killing as an acceptable response to human suffering,' Smith wrote, 'there are no outer boundaries limiting where the killing will ultimately go. Those with eyes to see, let them see.'"

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- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
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